

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

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Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Jor Bag Road, Aliganj  
New Delhi - 110003

**Dated: 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2023**

To

The Chief Secretary  
Government of Uttarakhand  
Dehradun

**Sub: Proposal for seeking prior approval of the Central Government under section 2 (ii) of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 in favour of Uttarakhand Forest Development Corporation, for renewal of FC Approval collection of Minor Minerals from Sharda River in Haldwani Forest Divisions, District Champawat (Uttarakhand) (Online proposal no. FP/UK/MIN/154581/2022) – reg.**

Madam/Sir,

I am directed to refer to your DO letter dated 20.01.2023 regarding extension of validity of approval for diversion of 384.69 ha of forest land for collection of boulder, bajri, sand etc. vide letter No. 8-61/1999-FC (Pt. III) dated 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2013 as the formal renewal of the same is likely to take some time. The State Govt. has submitted an online proposal No. /FP/UK/MIN/154581/2022 for the renewal of the above mentioned approval, which was received by the Ministry on 26.04.2022. After detailed examination of the proposal, the shortcomings observed were communicated to the state vide letter dated 13.05.2022. The reply to the observations was submitted by the State vide letter dated 19.10.2022, which along with the enclosures and the CD containing the kml file was received on 31.10.2022. However, the State did not submit the complete reply to the observations and accordingly the Ministry vide letter dated 05.12.2022 again requested the State government for the needful.

2. Now, the State Govt. vide letter No. 1588/FP/UK/MIN/154581/2021 dated 31.12.2022 (received online on 03.01.2023) has submitted the reply to the observations raised, however, the shortcomings as elaborated below are still required to be attended by the State government:

- i. The State Govt. has now submitted the mining plan approved by the Department of Mining and Geology Govt. of Uttarakhand. The said mining plan approved for next 5 years contains a letter No. 2169/VII-A-I/2021-19(ख)2013 dated 23.12.2021 issued by the Government of Uttarkhand wherein the condition no. 13 stipulates that the User Agency will carry out mining after leaving 15% area on each bank of the river. Whereas, the condition at Sr no (xi) of the approval dated 23.01.2013 stipulates that

*extraction of minor minerals shall be restricted to the middle half of the width of the river bed after leaving intact one fourth of the width of the river bed along its each bank.* The said condition which is contrary to the conditions of stage-II approval needs attention of the State government and clarification may accordingly be submitted

- ii. The State Govt. has confirmed that they have carried out CA in the areas namely Sharda Tapu 35 & 38 (25 ha), Sharda Tapu 37 (63 ha), Sharda Tapu 42 (16 ha) and Sharda Tapu 42 (20 ha) (total 124 ha) in safety zone which is part of the area proposed for diversion. The Compensatory Afforestation is required to be carried out in lieu of diversion of forest land and carrying out of CA over the same diverted forest land is not tenable. The reasons and justification for the same be submitted by the State.
  - iii. All the parameters prescribed in the Handbook of guidelines dated 28.03.2019 have still not been included in the cost benefit analysis, which is required to be done.
3. Keeping in view the request of the state government to extend the validity of the approval accorded vide letter dated 11.02.2013 and based upon the approval of the competent authority, it has been decided that the Government of Uttarakhand may allow the User Agency to collect the minor minerals from already broken up area where the mining operation is presently going beyond the date of validity of the approval dated 11.02.2013 till 28.02.2023 i.e. w.e.f. 12.02.2023 to 28.02.2023.
4. The State Government shall however immediately submit the reply to the observations as contained above in Para 2 of the letter along with the latest point wise status of compliance of the conditions stipulated in the S-II approval dated 11.02.2013 so that the proposal for renewal of validity of forest clearance can be placed before the FAC for consideration.

This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Yours Sincerely,

**Sd/-**  
**(Suneet Bhardwaj)**  
**Assistant Inspector General of Forests**

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary (Forests), Government of Uttarkhand, Dehradun.
2. PCCF (HoFF), Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun.
3. Regional Officer, Integrated Regional Office, MoEF&CC, Dehradun (**with a request to expedite the inspection of the remaining CA areas**)
4. APCCF cum Nodal Officer (FCA) Govt. of Uttarakhand, Department of Forest, Dehradun.
5. User Agency.
6. Monitoring Cell of the FC Division for uploading on the PARIVESH portal.